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The linkages between biodiversity and climate change mitigation

A review of the recent scientific literature

October 2008







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SECOND AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

First meeting

London, 17–21 November 2008

Item 4.2 of the provisional agenda*

SUMMARY OF AVAILABLE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ON THE LINKS BETWEEN BIODIVERSITY AND ITS CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE AND CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

*Report submitted by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment
Programme*

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The terms of reference for the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Biodiversity and Climate Change include: (i) identifying options to ensure that possible actions for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation do not run counter to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity but rather support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (ii) identifying opportunities for, and possible negative impacts on, biodiversity and its conservation and sustainable use, as well as livelihoods of indigenous and local communities, that may arise from reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. ^{1/}
2. In order to facilitate the consideration of this item by the AHTEG, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC) was contracted to prepare a review of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, including the linkages between biodiversity and climate-change mitigation. This work was completed thanks to the financial support of the Government of the United Kingdom. It should be noted that this work contains a number of examples of impacts but is not an exhaustive list.
3. The report is reproduced in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

* UNEP/CBD/AHTEG/BD-CC-2/1/1.

^{1/} Decision IX/16 B of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, annex III, paragraphs 3 (j) and (k).

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The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is the biodiversity assessment and policy implementation arm of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the world's foremost intergovernmental environmental organization. The centre has been in operation since 1989, combining scientific research with practical policy advice.

UNEP-WCMC provides objective, scientifically rigorous products and services to help decision makers recognize the value of biodiversity and apply this knowledge to all that they do. Its core business is managing data about ecosystems and biodiversity, interpreting and analysing that data to provide assessments and policy analysis, and making the results available to international decision-makers and businesses.

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